



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



DoS Grants Quarterly Meeting: Focus on USAID & JAMS

The Department of State's Office of the Procurement Executive (A/OPE) hosted their Grants Quarterly Meeting on May 10, 2006. The meeting began with a welcome from **Georgia Hubert**, Director of Financial Assistance (A/OPE/FA), who then introduced **Lynn Kopala**, USAID's Deputy Director for Acquisition.

Ms. Kopala provided an excellent overview of grant activities and initiatives entitled "*USAID Assistance Programs: What Do We Do? How Do We Do It?*" Highlights of the presentation included:

- A breakdown of USAID annual funding obligations through assistance grants, with details on how it is distributed in over 100 countries;
- An explanation of how USAID assistance from the American people helps fight hunger, poverty, disease, poor governance, crime and terror around the world; and a discussion about how the partnerships between USAID and the Department of State, Department of Defense, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other USG agencies support and further U.S. foreign policy goals.

Joseph Schmidt and **Monique Bryant** from the USAID Contracts Division (OAA/EGAT), also participated in the presentation.

Cathy Chikes, Director of RM's Office of Grants Financial Management (OGFM), and the State Lead on the JAMS Organizational Change Management (OCM) Team, introduced her OCM Team colleagues: **Terry Payne**, the USAID OCM Team Lead, **Kim Hupp**, USAID Procurement Analyst, **Tywanda Thurston**, DoS OCM member, **Malawi Rita Williams**, SRA Training and OCM Team Lead, and **Lisa Taylor**, JAMS OCM Analyst. Cathy updated meeting attendees on JAMS, providing an overview of the project's background, key goals, process flows, user impact, system processes, and mission and post participation.

Afterwards, attendees were treated to a preview of Grantium v3.0.2. (the JAMS software) by **Brad Robeson** from Infoterra, which demonstrated several improvements in the software's navigation and functionality. These changes were the result of recommendations by participants during the JAMS Proof of Concept (POC) held in March 2006. Attendees who had participated in the POC were impressed with the quality of the changes and thanked Infoterra for being responsive to their concerns.

DoS JAMS FLASH
May 2006

The JAMS Team

Do you know how the JAMS Teams are organized? There are four workstream teams: **Functional, Technical, Planning, and Organizational Change Management (OCM)**. In addition, there are several **Integrated Product Teams (IPTs)** to focus on specific issues such as Reporting, Financial Integration, Data Migration, Policy and Training. Each team and IPT has two co-Leads – one each from the Department and USAID.

In addition, each team/IPT has a contractor lead and/or representative from SRA and Booz Allen Hamilton. OMB considers the JAMS approach to be a model for interagency cooperation and has asked the Project Managers to develop a “Lessons Learned” for other USG agencies embarking on joint projects.

Next month: Stay tuned for our new section: **Team Highlights**, coming in the June 2006 Flash!

Contact Information

Email the JAMS Team!

The JAMS Mailbox is up and running. Submit comments questions, responses and recommendations to: jamsmailbox@usaid.gov.

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